

## YOUR APPRAISAL

# "Something wicked this way comes"

**Macbeth**

**Produced and Performed by**

**Scorton CE Primary School**

Guildhall & Charter Theatre, Preston

17<sup>th</sup> November 2016

**Appraised by Paul Jenkins**

Many congratulations to the cast and crew of Scorton CE Primary School on their fantastic production! I'd like to highlight a few things from this group that stood out, wowed the audience and made this Shakespeare Schools Festival night an evening to remember.

This production of Macbeth was delivered by a fantastic cast full of energy. They arrived at the theatre beaming with excitement and it was extraordinary to see their onstage transformation embodying dark, scheming characters. It was impressive to see that each performer had a strong grasp of their character.

The show opened with three contorted witches commanding the stage with screwed up faces and voices shrieking into the darkened night. This completely drew the audience into the world of the play, particularly as the whole cast projected very well across the auditorium.

The cast worked brilliantly as a team. They used unison to great effect, building the



tension through voice, movement and stage sounds. There was a marvellous moment when the cast slapped the stage to punctuate the action happening in the centre. Using the echoey stage to give a creepy thud was effective and enhanced an already engaging scene.

The cast's brilliant characterisations throughout meant the audience were really invested in the relationships between the characters and their emotional journeys. Seeing Lady Macbeth descending into madness, the apparitions being sinister in their predictions for the future and the battle sequences of Macbeth's defeat, were incredibly engaging. This was a clear and bold production of Macbeth that really packed a punch for the audience!

**"It's a significant achievement to do something as difficult and aspirational as perform one of Shakespeare's plays on a professional stage. Everyone who's taken part should be so proud of themselves."**

**Ruth Brock, SSF Chief Executive**

Congratulations to everyone involved in this superb production. I hope to see your school in the Festival again next year.

Paul Jenkins, SSF Stage Director